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MEDICAL.

The Hiſtory of a ſingular and very mortal Diſeaſe, which lately made its Appearance in Medfield—Symptoms of the Diſorder—Its Progreſs and Termination—Appearances on Diſſection—The different Methods of Treatment, and what eventually proved ſucceſsful: communicated by Doctors L. DANIELSON *and* E. MANN, *attendant Phyſicians on the Sick.*

DR. ADAMS,

IN conformity to the demand which ſociety has on the united exertions of all, to ameliorate the condition and alleviate the diſtreſſes of humanity, the underſigned think proper to ſubmit the following hiſtory of facts, relating to the diſeaſe which lately made its appearance in Medfield, with the *methodus medendi* [method of treatment] proceeded on in each caſe; giving in detail the conſequences which followed, and leaving it with the ſpeculative inquirer to draw his own concluſions relative to the nature and origin of the diſorder. The ſimilarity of ſymptoms in nine caſes which proved fatal, all between the 8th and 31ſt of March, has been ſo great, as to render a particular detail of each unneceſſary; we ſhall, therefore, give only a conciſe hiſtory of the mode of attack, and progreſs of the ſymptoms, generally.

Without any apparent prediſpoſition, the patient is ſuddenly taken with violent pain in the head and ſtomach, ſucceeded by cold chills, and followed by nauſea and puking; matter diſcharged from the ſtomach of no unuſual or morbid appearance; reſpiration ſhort and laborious, tongue a little white toward the root, and moiſt; velocity of the blood increaſed,

with a very ſenſible diminution of momentum in the radical, while in the caroted arteries it was much augmented; and in a child of 15 months old, a very violent pulſation was diſcovered, at the fontanel [opening of the head;] the eyes have a wild vacant ſtare, without much if any appearance of inflammation; the heat of the ſkin ſoon becomes much increaſed, yet the ſkin is not remarkably dry: theſe ſymptoms are accompanied by a peculiar fearfulneſs, as if in danger of falling from the bed or nurſe's arms, and continue from ſix to nine hours, when coma [ſuppreſſion of ſenſe and voluntary motion] commences, with increaſing debility; extremities become cold; livid ſpots, reſembling petechiæ [purple ſpots which appear in the laſt ſtages of certain fevers,] appear under the ſkin, on the face, neck, and extremities; pulſe ſmall, irregular, and unequal; ſpaſms occur at intervals, which increaſe in violence and frequency in proportion as the force of the circulation decreaſes; at this time the eyes appear glaſſy, and the ſize of the pupil varies ſuddenly, from almoſt wholly obliterating the iris, down to the ſize of a millet ſeed, and then again as ſuddenly dilating. Theſe ſymptoms ſeem to mark the ſecond period of the diſeaſe, and continue from three to five hours. The third and laſt ſtage is diſtinguiſhed by a total loſs of pulſation at the wriſts; livid appearances become more general; ſpaſms more violent; coma more profound; death! The patient has in general continued in the laſt ſtage from ſix to twelve hours.

In the treatment, different methods were uſed. At firſt it was thought adviſable to evacuate the ſtomach and bowels, and to exhibit bark and wine as ſpeedily and freely as poſſible. This mode was followed in the three firſt caſes that received medical advice,* in all which it was found ineffectual: the patients ſeemed invariably to ſink faſter after each evacuation, and the ſtimulating powers of the bark and wine were found to be either too feeble or too ſlow in action to produce any good effect.

Caſe 5.—In this caſe the attack was more gradual, and the ſymptoms more mild, than any which preceded or followed it. Convinced not only of the inefficacy but of the abſolute injury of evacuations, in thoſe caſes which had gone before, it was determined to loſe no time in exhibiting evacuants, but to commence the ſtimulating proceſs immediately: accordingly the child (aged 3 years) was directed to get cal. 3 grs. gum opii. ½ gr. mixed, once every three hours; bark and wine in as large quantities as the ſtomach would bear. This method

* The firſt ſubject was in the pangs of death when firſt ſeen.

was followed for ſeveral days, until ſhe had taken an hundred grains of calomel. Notwithſtanding the liberality with which the medicine was introduced, the mouth was not affected, nor any purging produced. The extremities were bliſtered largely; and the child was frequently immerſed in a warm decoction of white oak bark, for ten or fifteen minutes. The length of time which this child continued gave us ſome hope of recovery, as her life was prolonged eleven days from the attack, when ſhe failed in the ſame manner as the others had done. Whether it was owing to the mildneſs of the attack, the peculiarity of conſtitution, or the herculean treatment employed in this caſe, which prolonged her exiſtence, we cannot determine; this however is certain, that the 6th caſe, a child of two years old, of a robuſt and healthy conſtitution, failed in twenty-ſix hours, under the ſame mode of treatment.

In the 7th caſe, affuſion of cold water was added to the above treatment, with a like want of ſucceſs, as the child lived only twenty-ſeven hours from the acceſſion of the diſeaſe. In the two following it was thought adviſable to aſſiſt the natural efforts to puke with an infuſion of camomile flowers, and to diſcharge the contents of the rectum by a clyſter; after which turp. min. æth. ammon. muſk, bliſtering the whole head, embrocating the extremities with ſpt. terebinth. ſpt. ſal am. tinc. canthar. mixed, were tried, and found alike unavailing.

In the laſt caſe, a child of 15 months old, on account of the *very violent pulſation* diſcovered at the fontanel, about an ounce of blood was taken from the jugular vein; the effect was unfortunate; the child ſeemed to fail faſter, even from this ſmall depletion, and died within twelve hours from the attack.

This laſt mentioned caſe cloſed the fatal ſcene, yet did not leſſen our fears, and gave ſtrength to the alarm which had faſtened on all, and which had gained ſuch complete aſcendency over every proſpect of ſucceſs, that it would be impoſſible to deſcribe the impreſſions made on the minds of tender parents and affectionate friends for the ſafety of their children and connexions.

Two days after this laſt fatal caſe, we were called to viſit a female child aged 3 years and 4 months, which caſe was ſo diſtinctly marked that ſcarcely a ray of hope exiſted that the iſſue would be favorable; and all who had witneſſed the effects of this terrific malady, viewed this child as it were in the article of death, her ſymptoms being almoſt as violent as any, and more ſo than ſome of the preceding caſes. As the means which we had hitherto uſed had uniformly failed us, we thought

ourſelves juſtified in leaving them, and truſting wholly to *Fowler's mineral ſolution* * and wine; accordingly the child got, in about three-fourths of an hour after the commencement of the diſeaſe, *two drops* of the ſolution in a table ſpoon-full of wine, and in half an hour ſhe ceaſed complaining of pain, became more lively, and in fact the only remaining ſymptoms of diſeaſe were a very ſmall, quick, and irregular pulſe, accompanied with a dull, heavy appearance of the eyes. After the exhibition of the medicine, ſhe was directed to get one drop every two hours, and to take wine freely. This courſe was continued for eighteen hours ſucceeding the attack, during which time the child ſeemed free from pain, and got a tolerable night's reſt. The ſecond day—child evidently better, and had ſome appetite; pulſe ſtill remarkably ſmall, and had been, after a ſmall evacuation from the bowels, quite imperceptible at the wriſt; eyes ſtill dull; ſame medicine, gradually diminiſhing in quantity, was continued for five days, at which time, and not before, had the pulſe regained a healthy ſtandard, the eyes their uſual vivacity, and the patient was conſidered out of danger, if not perfectly well. Since this we have had three or four other caſes, in all of which we have placed our whole reliance on the *ſolution*, and are happy to have it in our power to ſay, that, from a ſimilar exhibition of this *heroic medicine*, all our patients have recovered.

Examination by diſſection was had on five bodies of patients dying of the above deſcribed malady.

The firſt examination was made on a boy ten years old, ſeven hours after death, whoſe caſe was ſtrongly marked, terminating in twenty-two hours. On removing the cranium, and dividing the dura mater, there was diſcharged, by eſtimation, half an ounce of a ſerus fluid. The dura and pia mater in ſeveral places adhered together, and both to the ſubſtance of the brain. The veins of the brain were uncommonly turgid with a fluid ſimilar to that which was diſcharged from between its membranes, and the ſubſtance of the brain itſelf remarkably ſoft, offering ſcarcely any reſiſtance to the finger when thruſt into it: the cerebellum alſo was found in the ſame ſtate. The ſtomach contained about ſix ounces of a dark fluid reſembling coffee grounds, and its villous coat was nearly in a ſtate of diſſolution. The lungs were rather darker than uſual; otherwiſe all the viſcera [bowels, &c.] both of the thorax and abdomen, were in a healthy ſtate.

The ſecond examination was made twelve hours after death, on the body of a girl of five years old, of the ſame family, and

* A medicine well known to phyſicians, and one of the moſt active in the *materia medica*.

ſick at the ſame time, and whoſe caſe was alſo ſtrongly marked. Between the dura and pia mater was effuſed a fluid reſembling pus, both over the cerebrum and cerebellum, the veins of the brain turgid with blood, and the hemiſpheres adhered together with conſiderable ſtrength. Theſe were the only morbid appearances within the cranium. The appearance of the ſtomach differed in nothing from that of the preceding caſe, only that the villous coat was not ſo tender. The abdominal and thoracic viſcera were apparently healthy.

In the three other caſes that were examined, nothing peculiarly morbid was diſcovered in any part of the ſyſtem, excepting the veins and ſinuſes of the brain were found remarkably turgid with a very dark colored blood.

L. DANIELSON.
Medfield, May, 1806. E. MANN.

For the MEDICAL AND AGRICULTURAL REGISTER.

Medical Extracts, No. I.

Quack and Patent Medicines.—THE credulity of mankind in reſpect of medicine is truly aſtoniſhing; even thoſe who are doubtful in other matters are very eaſy dupes of every pretender to a ſecret medicine. Many will neglect good advice, and run after an ignorant perſon who has a ſecret medicine. There is a greater difference between a good phyſician and a ſelf-created one, who without knowledge undertakes every thing, than a good phyſician and none. He who advertiſes a ſecret or patent medicine is aiming for the money of the credulous and ignorant, and when be has obtained it cares no more for them. Many worthleſs drugs are brought into uſe by the breath of impoſture and the voice of credulity; or perhaps they may be taken juſt before a favorable criſis, and ſo eſtabliſh their unmerited fame; for the drug not having killed the patient, (but only retarded the cure,) he knows from experience that the medicine has cured him, and ſo publiſhes it in the news-papers.

After people are convinced from their own experience of the futility of any quack or patent medicine, they give themſelves no further trouble about it, but leave it to their neighbors to make the ſame inquiry, if they pleaſe: this is what the quack wiſhes, as he gains by the experiment; and when his fortune is made, he cares no more about the reputation of his drug: but if its character ſhould be blaſted before he has accompliſhed his object, he then metamorphoſes his *infallible*

bitters into *infallible pills*, *itch ointment*, or ſome thing elſe, (no matter what, to get money,) and ſounds their praiſes in the news-papers; and probably the ointment will finiſh what the bitters began. The credulous read with pathos the pompous advertiſements of unprincipled quacks—"This medicine is a powerful one; it will cure all kinds of diſeaſes incident to man; it may be taken at all times, in all ſeaſons, in all climates, and by all perſons of all deſcriptions, male or female, young or old, black or white; if the diſeaſe has arrived before it is taken it removes it, and if the diſeaſe is only on the road it prevents its arrival; it will cure the conſumption, dropſy, and cancer, thoſe dreadful diſeaſes, which baffle the ſkill of the faculty; it is ſo wonderful in its operation that no perſon ought to be without it." By ſuch means money is taken from the pocket of the credulous. In fact, a patent medicine is an impudent burleſque on common ſenſe, and the abſurd idea that there is ſuch a thing as an univerſal medicine can only obtain credit with the weak and credulous. The exiſtence of an univerſal remedy for the cure of all diſeaſes is impoſſible, for there cannot be a remedy which will reſtore tone to the fibres when they are relaxed, and alſo have the power of relaxing them when they are too rigid.

It is a melancholy truth, that many patent and other quack medicines acquire their ill-merited reputation by chance, and we are unable to come at the evidence of perhaps nine-tenths of thoſe who have experienced their *fatal* effects, and who are now no longer in a ſituation to complain. The baneful effects of ſuch medicines are not generally known, for it is only the *extraordinary inſtances of relief* that are made public. There are various cauſes from which the ſame diſeaſes originate in different individuals; for inſtance, violent cholic pains may ariſe from flatulency, from inflammation of the inteſtines, from rupture, from poiſonous matters, &c.: theſe all require a different treatment; what would cure one might deſtroy the other. The ableſt phyſician is obliged to employ all his ſagacity, ſupported by experience, and even then is often under the neceſſity of diſcovering from the progreſs of the diſeaſe what he could not diſcover otherwiſe by the minuteſt reſearches. If this is the caſe, how can it be expected that a quack, (male or female,) who knows nothing of the ſtructure of the human body, or the laws by which it is governed, ſhould be more ſucceſsful, when the method of cure is either the impulſe of the moment or the effect of credulity.

Nature.—The work of nature, both in the production and diſſolution of matter, is carried on in the ſtricteſt economy; nothing is produced in vain, and nothing conſumed without a

cauſe: the deſtruction of forms and figures is a careful decompoſition in order to produce new ſubſtances All nature is united by indiſſoluble ties: every thing exiſts for the ſake of another, and no one can exiſt without its neighbor; or in other words, all nature conſiſts in a circular chain of links, and it is difficult to tell where the firſt link begins. Nature is our ſureſt guide, ſhe teaches the rule of juſt economy. Man is but a part of the whole of her great ſyſtem, and ſhould cultivate an acquaintance with her laws, and his own conſtitution, and ought to chooſe or reject according to the dictates of reaſon, ever obſerving nature's example, and expend neither too much nor too little of her treaſures. Men ſeldom go far wrong while they follow nature, but every deviation from her laws (in reſpect to health) is attended with danger. If man could keep at a medium he would be perfect: he flies from one extreme to another, and is equally wrong in both. Young men are apt to be prodigal of nature's treaſures, and where their morals are neglected generally daſh into every vice, and by theſe means their lives are greatly ſhortened. Many are indebted to their parents and friends for their diſeaſes, occaſioned by errors with regard to the quality and quantity of aliment: they did not obſerve nature, but their own impulſe. Mankind, eſpecially in populous towns, have degenerated in ſtrength, energy of mind, and in capacity of reſiſting the noxious agency of powers which affect them from without. The progreſſive cultivation of the mind, with the refinements of habits and manners, are ever accompanied with a proportionate increaſe of luxury. Nature is contented with little, but luxury knows no bounds. In proportion as the refinements of luxury increaſe in a nation, the number and variety of diſeaſes alſo increaſe, and the more plain and ſimple a people continue, (eſpecially in diet and regimen,) the more they approximate to a ſtate of nature, and are leſs affected by the cauſes of diſeaſe. Every change of cuſtom in civilized nations produces a change in diſeaſes, and of courſe calls for a change of remedies. Intemperance, indolence, idleneſs, ſleeping in ſmall apartments, uncleanlineſs, ſtagnated foul air, damp clothing, tranſitions from hot to cold air, anger, &c. tend to diſeaſe. Temperance, moderate exerciſe, plain wholeſome food, cleanlineſs, pure air, early riſing in the morning, cheerfulneſs of mind, &c. tend to health, and to its preſervation. Temperance and exerciſe are two excellent phyſicians. Intemperance diſorders the whole animal economy. The ſlave to appetite will ever be the diſgrace of human nature. The epicure and the drunkard ſeldom ſtop in their career until their money or conſtitution fails. Nature delights in plain, ſimple food; and

every animal follows her dictates except man, who riots at large, and ranſacks the whole creation in queſt of luxuries, to his own deſtruction.

Cleanlineſs.—Nothing more contributes to health and its preſervation than cleanlineſs of perſon and apparel. Cleanlineſs is an important virtue, and much diſeaſe may be avoided by attending ſtrictly to ablution. The perfection of dreſs is eaſe and cleanlineſs: the want of due attention to cleanlineſs is the occaſion of a variety of diſeaſes, as the itch, &c. &c. If uncleanlineſs does not give origin to peſtilential fevers, it certainly helps to extend, circulate, and continue them, when once excited. The effluvia of dirty cottages and dirty rooms are of like nature with peſtilential vapors. Penury is generally aſſociated with naſtineſs, and often with indolence: it often happens that peſtilential diſeaſes commence with the poorer claſs of citizens, who are negligent of cleanlineſs; and on the firſt viſitation of the phyſician, are found in a ſmall naſty bed-room, enveloped in dirty linen, &c. little leſs pleaſant than a lump of putrefaction.

In order to health houſes muſt be kept clean, and no offenſive matter ſhould ever be ſuffered to remain. Farmers ſhould remove every kind of manure from their houſes, for by neglecting ſo to do they may be led to the dubious routine of phyſic, by their families being ſickly in conſequence of naſtineſs. One blunder leads to another: the want of crops, (by neglecting his manure,) and hence failure in his income, drives him to mortgages, judgments, and executions. In fact, the foul habitations of many people are nurſeries of peſtilential diſeaſes. Truly uncleanlineſs is ſo diſagreeable in its nature, that it is ſtrange any ſhould be contented to harmonize with it: but there is a law in the animal economy, which accommodates the mind of man to all the natural evils to which he, in the common order of things, is expoſed.

The body ought to be kept perfectly clean, by frequent changing the linen, and by frequent waſhings; by theſe means much filth and perſpirable matter, which adheres to the ſkin, will be removed: the whole ſyſtem is refreſhed and invigorated by this practice. Theſe waſhings may be by immerſion of the whole body in warm water, or with a ſingle bowl of water, rubbing the body with a ſponge a few minutes. On the whole, whoever would live to old age muſt keep himſelf clean, muſt avoid anger and exceſſive fatigue, and muſt be good humored, cheerful, induſtrious, and contemplate new objects.

G——.

May, 1806.

AGRICULTURAL.

Obſervations on the raiſing of Potatoes; communicated in a Letter, by Lieut. BEZALEEL LAWRENCE.

DR. ADAMS,

SHOULD you think the following method of raiſing potatoes would be more uſeful than thoſe now generally uſed, and that it will tend to ſubſerve the intereſts of agriculture, you are at liberty to publiſh it.

The value of potatoes was but little underſtood by our anceſtors. My grandfather, ſince my remembrance, obſerved that he raiſed, in one year, ſix buſhels of potatoes, but found ſo little uſe for them during the fall and winter, that he threw away one half of them in the ſpring. They are now, however, ſo highly eſteemed, that it is not uncommon for a farmer to raiſe from two to three hundred buſhels in a year. To aſcertain, therefore, the beſt method of raiſing them, as it reſpects both the quantity and quality, will not, it is preſumed, be thought unimportant.

The method by which I was taught to raiſe them, and which I believe is now generally practiſed, was, to plough the ground very deep, make deep furrows, clear out thoſe furrows with a hoe, ſo as to receive a large ſhovel full of manure; then to plant them upon the manure, and cover them very deep with earth. After they had come up, I was taught to plough deep between the rows, and hoe the earth round them, ſo as to make large and high hills.

From the following facts and obſervations I am fully convinced the above method is wrong:—

About ten years paſt, I ploughed a piece of wettiſh land, covered with ſmall buſhes, for the purpoſe of ſubduing them. Owing to the roots of the buſhes I was unable to plough deep, or make deep furrows. The manure was put on the top of the furrows, the potatoes placed upon that, and earth carted to cover them, whereby they were but thinly covered with earth. After they had come up, they were hoed three times before they bloſſomed, the earth each time looſened from the roots, and replaced by a little freſh earth, but not ſo as to make the hills deep or large. In the fall, after the froſt had bitten the tops, but not killed the roots, they were pulled with eaſe, not being deep in the ground, and ſhook between the

rows, where they remained in the ſun two or three hours: they were then carried into the cellar, and, not expecting them to be ſo good as ſome I had raiſed in the common way, intended only for the uſe of the cattle: but the family, not knowing this circumſtance, uſed them a number of times to eat, and finding them remarkably ſweet, mealy, and palatable, led me to an inquiry into the cauſe: being unable to account for this in any other way than their not having been planted and covered deep in the earth, I was determined the next year to try the experiment, which I did in the following manner.

A part of my potatoes were planted as uſual, and a part were planted near the top of the ground, covered but thinly, and afterwards hoed ſo as not to make large or high hills. In the fall, thoſe potatoes planted and cultivated in the manner laſt mentioned, were far more ſweet and palatable than the others.

Since that time I have planted and cultivated my potatoes by the following rules:—

1. Plough the ground but a few days before the potatoes are planted, becauſe otherwiſe it will ſettle and become hard.

2. Furrow the ground four feet apart each way, and that only, where the land is moiſt, for the purpoſe of making a mark where to place the manure for each hill.

3. If the land be moiſt, the manure ſhould be of a light or ſtrawy kind; if dry, it ſhould be finer, or of a moiſter nature, and the furrows a little deeper.

4. After the manure is placed, drop the potatoes on it, covering them thinly, and taking care that no rocks or ſods be placed on them, but to place them near the potatoes, for the purpoſe of letting in the air.

5. Soon after the ſprouts ſhoot through the ground, plough between the rows with a horſe, as near the roots as poſſible, clear out all the weeds from the potatoes, and add a ſmall quantity of freſh earth to the roots.

6. At the ſecond ploughing, plough the other way of the rows from the firſt, and in all other reſpects proceed as before.

7. At the third ploughing, (which ſhould be before they bloſſom, otherwiſe there will be a new ſet of ſprangles, which will cauſe the growth of a large number of ſmall potatoes,) proceed as before, clearing out the weeds, and placing a little freſh earth round the roots, making the hill flattiſh, but not high; in this way ſmall ſhowers, and even a common dew, will afford nouriſhment, and increaſe their growth, and as it keeps the earth light and clear of weeds, the air and the rays of the ſun will eaſily penetrate to the roots, and render them more ſweet and mealy.

8. In the fall, before the roots are dead, they ſhould be dug, ſhook between the rows, and remain two or three hours in the ſun, (for potatoes ſhould be dug in fair weather,) then carried into the cellar, where, to prevent their becoming ſtrong and bitter, they ſhould be kept as much from the air and moiſture as poſſible.

Should the above facts and obſervations prove uſeful to farmers, in the cultivation of a root ſo highly and generally eſteemed, and ſo truly valuable, as the potatoe, the communication of it to the public, through the medium of the Regiſter, will afford me much ſatisfaction. The experiment is eaſy, and may be tried without riſk.

BEZALEEL LAWRENCE.

Leominſter, April 21, 1806.

For the MEDICAL AND AGRICULTURAL REGISTER.

On Pruning Fruit Trees.

DR. ADAMS,

IT is with much pleaſure I have noticed in the Regiſter a number of valuable communications on planting and cultivating fruit trees. So far as it reſpects *the fitteſt ſeaſon for pruning*, however, I muſt take the liberty to differ from your correſpondent on that ſubject, in your third number.

The great object in the choice of a time for that purpoſe is, *to hit upon one when the tree will not waſte its ſap, and when the wound will heal over the quickeſt ;* in order to affect this, let the buſineſs be done in *June*, about two or three days before the change of the moon ; at that ſeaſon the ſtock where the limb is taken off will not emit any more ſap than a dry ſtick ; but the work ſhould be done by a careful hand, *that the bark may not be ſtarted round the wound.* Perhaps it would be beſt, if the limbs be large, to take them off firſt a few inches from their inſertion into the ſtock, then *let the remainder be taken off cloſe*, with a ſharp fine ſaw : when this is done, nature will immediately begin her operation to effect a cure ; for in *four days* it will be found that a ring or callus of new growth is forming round the wound, which will grow and heal over ſooner than if the ſame limb had been taken off *fifteen months* before.

If any one ſhould ſmile at the idea of the moon's having any influence in the buſineſs, I would obſerve, that the moon does certainly affect the ſap of the tree as well as the tide of the ocean ; country people, who are in the practice of peeling bark from foreſt trees, are well perſuaded of this. As every

diſcovery in the management of trees is of ſome importance, it is hoped that the truth of the foregoing obſervations will be teſted by experiment.

A NORFOLK SUBSCRIBER.

For the MEDICAL AND AGRICULTURAL REGISTER.

DR. ADAMS,

THE following mode of curing butter I believe was practiſed firſt in the pariſh of Udney, in Great Britain. An account of it has ſome time ſince been publiſhed in this country; it is, however, yet far from being generally known, and many to whom it is known have not paid it that attention which the importance of the thing requires; I have therefore a wiſh it may appear in the Regiſter.

Take two parts of the beſt common ſalt, one part of ſugar, and one part of ſaltpetre, beat them up together, and blend the whole completely: take one ounce of this compoſition for every ſixteen ounces of butter, work it well into the maſs, and cloſe it up for uſe.

The above by ſome is uſed in this proportion—*ten ounces* of ſalt to *four ounces* of ſaltpetre and *four ounces* of clean ſugar.

The following is the commendation given of this mode of practice in the *Pennſylvania Farmer*:—

"The butter cured of this mixture appears of a rich marrowy conſiſtence and fine color, and never acquires hardneſs nor taſtes ſalt; *it eats as ſweet after being kept three years as at firſt.* It muſt be noted, that butter thus cured requires to ſtand three weeks or a month before it is fit to be uſed; if it be ſooner opened the ſalts are not perfectly blended with it, and ſometimes the coolneſs of the nitre will then be perceived, which totally diſappears afterwards."

This mixture will not coſt more than about *one cent* by the ounce, which is ſufficient for curing *one pound of butter.* Country farmers, is not this worthy your attention? As much ſo as *ſweet butter* is better and bears a higher price than that which is *ſtrong* and *frowy.* Beſides, it affords to the dairy-woman *a ſettled rule,* in an operation which, in the way it is uſually practiſed, is done *without rule or uniformity.* I cannot but think, were people to adopt the mode here recommended, they would ſoon be convinced of the importance of it. Every one knows the ſuperiority of meat preſerved by a proportion of ſaltpetre and ſugar with common ſalt, and it cannot but be expected that the ſame ſhould be the caſe in reſpect to butter.

A LOVER OF GOOD BUTTER.

Suffolk County, May, 1806.

Cautions and Directions in Gardening, extracted from "MARSHALL'S *Gardening.*"

Gardening.—THE *management* of a garden (ſummarily ſpeaking) conſiſts in *attention* and *application;* the firſt ſhould be of that wary and provident kind, as not only to do well in the preſent, but for the future; and the latter ſhould be of that diligent nature as (willingly) "*never to defer that till to-morrow which may be done to-day.*" Procraſtination is of ſerious conſequence to *gardening;* and neglect of times and ſeaſons will be fruitful of diſappointment and complaint. It will often happen, indeed, that a gardener cannot do what he *would;* but if he does not do what he *can*, he will be moſt juſtly blamed, and perhaps cenſured by none more than by himſelf.

Weeding.—Weeding in time is a material thing in culture, and *ſtirring* the ground about plants, as alſo *earthing up* where neceſſary, muſt be attended to. Breaking the ſurface will keep the ſoil in health; for when it lies in a hard or bound ſtate, enriching ſhowers run off, and the ſalubrious air cannot enter. Weeds exhauſt the ſtrength of the ground, and if they are ſuffered to ſeed and ſow themſelves, may be truly called (as Mr. EVELYN ſpeaks) *garden ſins.* The *hand* and *hoe* are the inſtruments for the purpoſe. *Digging* where the ſpade can go, between the rows of plants, is a good method of deſtroying weeds; and as it cuts off the ſtraggling fibres of roots, they ſtrike freſh in numerous new ſhoots, and are thus ſtrengthened. Deep *hoeing* is a good practice, as it gives a degree of fertility to the earth.

MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES.

ARTICLE XV.

Reſult of Meteorological and other Obſervations, for April, 1806; *made at* DEERFIELD, PORTSMOUTH, CONCORD, *and* BOSTON:—*For the Medical and Agricultural Regiſter.*

April, 1806.	*Mean degs. at ſun-riſe.*	*Mean degs. at 2 P. M.*	*Mean degree of the month.*	*Greateſt heat in the month.*	*Leaſt heat in the month.*	*Prevailing winds.*	*Marriages.*	*Births.*	*Deaths.*
Deerfield	34	52⅓	42⅚	21ſt day 72°	11th day 19°	N. W.			
Portſmouth	36⅓	47	41½	21 66	11 22	N. W.			
Concord	38½	47⅓	43	21 67	3 22	NW. & WNW.	4	7	1
Boſton	37	49	43	4 70	11 24	N. W.			

WEATHER.

1*ſt day*, cloudy, fair.
2 } fair, very dry for the ſeaſon; 4th
3 } and 5th warm, frogs peeped;
4 } 6th the wind ſhifted into the
5 } N. E. and blew raw and cold.
6 }
7— commenced a N. E. ſtorm of
8— rain.
9— cleared off cold; *Concord* and *Portſmouth* a little ſnow.
10 } fair and cold, briſk winds, ſome
11 } ſqualls; 12th the ice at *Town-*
12 } *ſend*,* by actual meaſurement,
13 } on ſtreams of running water,
14 } *two and an half inches* thick.
15— weather moderated.
16— warm, no froſt laſt night, rain; *Townſend* ſome people beginning to plough; *Portſm.* heavy thunder and ſharp lightning.
17— cleared off cool.
18 } alternate clouds and ſunſhine, un-
19 } ſettled weather.
20— moderate weather, wind S. W.
21— cloudy; *Deerfield* little rain P.M.
22— moderate rain and cool.
23— cloudy, fair.
24 } fair, cool and windy, froſty morn-
25 } ings.
26 } cloudy and rain.
27 }
28 } cloudy; *Deerfield* fair; ſome
29 } ſmall ſhowers 29th.
30— fair and windy.

Deerfield, May 1, 1806.

Of the progreſs of vegetation.—This is very ſmall. The elm, willow, maple, and lilack begin to wear the appearance of verdure, but the apple tree has the ſterile aſpect of January. The weather during the month has been uncommonly cold and dry, and the ſeaſon is very backward.

State of health.—Violent colds are frequent, otherwiſe it may be ſaid to be as healthy as uſual.

We have had no *long continued* nor *ſevere* ſtorms this month, (April.) The 11th was a ſtormy, windy day, particularly in the afternoon; we had a little ſnow in the morning. The 26th was rainy and ſnowy; the tops of the mountains appeared white, but very little ſnow fell in the vallies.

EP. HOYT.

Extracts from public Prints.

NORFOLK, (*Virg.*) *May* 5.—We believe the oldeſt inhabitant does not remember ſo long a drought; the conſequence of which, it is feared, will be ruinous to the agriculture, which is now injured for want of rain. The great *Diſmal Swamp*, ſo called, has been ſome weeks on fire, which has extended for many miles. We have converſed with ſome gentlemen of information from that quarter, who aſſure us that the damage already done is moderately eſtimated at one hundred thouſand dollars. A number of buildings, bridges, and a large quantity of timber, are conſumed; and the fire yeſterday was raging in every direction with the greateſt violence; without rain there is no hope of its ſtopping ſhort of the entire deſtruction of all the timber in this great tract of country. The rapidity with which our informants ſtate the flames to ſpread, exceeds any thing that can be deſcribed.

* In Middleſex county, 43 miles N. W. from Boſton.

Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman at Vincennes, dated March 28, 1806.

"A ſtrange and very ſingular diſeaſe * is ſaid to prevail in the Illinois counties: it ſeizes only girls of twelve years of age or under, beginning with head-ache and fever, and generally terminating in death on the third day. A gentleman of Praitie du Rocker is ſaid to have loſt all his daughters. I have not heard further particulars."

POETRY.

Water the moſt ſalutary Liquor.

LEARN temp'rance, friends! and hear without diſdain
The choice of water. Thus the Coan ſage †
Opin'd, and thus the learn'd of ev'ry ſchool:
What leaſt of foreign principles partakes
Is beſt; the lighteſt then; what bears the touch
Of fire the leaſt, and ſooneſt mounts in air;
The moſt inſipid, the moſt void of ſmell.
Such the rude mountain from his horrid ſides
Pours down; ſuch waters in the ſandy vale
Forever boil, alike of winter froſts
And ſummer's heat ſecure. The cryſtal ſtream,
Through rocks reſounding, or for many a mile
O'er the chaf'd pebbles hurl'd, yields wholeſome, pure,
And mellow draughts, except when winter thaws,
And half the mountains melt into the tide.
Though thirſt were e'er ſo reſolute, *avoid*
The ſordid lake, and all ſuch drowſy floods
As fill from Lethe Belgia's ſlow canals,
(With reſt corrupt, with vegetation green,
Squalid with generation and the birth
Of little monſters,) till the pow'r of fire
Has from profane embraces diſengag'd
The violated lymph. The virgin ſtream,
In boiling, waſtes its finer ſoul in air.

* May not this be the ſame with that which lately prevailed at *Medfield*, an account of which we have in this number of the Regiſter?

† HIPPOCRATES.

Nothing like ſimple element dilutes
The food, or gives the chyle * ſo ſoon to flow:
But where the ſtomach, indolent and cold,
Toys with its duty, animate with wine
Th' inſipid ſtream, though golden Ceres yields
A more voluptuous, a more ſprightly draught,
Perhaps more active: wine unmix'd, and all
The gluey floods that from the vex'd abyſs
Of fermentation ſpring, with ſpirit fraught,
And furious with intoxicating fire,
Retard concoction, and preſerve unthaw'd
The embodi'd maſs. You ſee what countleſs years,
Embalm'd in fiery quinteſcence of wine,†
The puny wonders of the reptile world,
The tender rudiments of life, the ſlim
Unravellings of minute anatomy,
Maintain their texture, and unchang'd remain.
We curſe not wine; the vile exceſs we blame,
More fruitful than th' accumulated board
Of pain and miſery; for the ſubtle draught
Faſter and ſurer ſwells the vital tide,
And with more active poiſon than the floods
Of groſſer crudity convey, pervades
The far remote meanders of our frame.

ARMSTRONG.

* A white, milky fluid, produced by digeſtion: it is the nutrimentitious part of our food, fitted and prepared for entering into the circulation of the blood. EDITOR.

† The poet here has reference to thoſe reptiles, inſects, and anatomical preparations, which, it is well known, being immerſed in ſpirits of wine, are preſerved unchanged for many years; and hence he takes occaſion to argue the *pernicious effects* of ſpirituous liquors, taken with food, which, unleſs it undergo a change in the ſtomach, and be reduced to a fluid ſtate, is utterly incapable of affording ſupport or nouriſhment to the human body. EDITOR.

N. B. The communication in our laſt number, on the "*natural hiſtory of the horſe bee*, &c." aſcribed to the Rev. ROWLAND GREEN, jun. was from Doct. ROWLAND GREEN, jun. which miſtake our Readers will be good enough to correct.

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